

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	File Number EB-03-TP-042
)	
Tori Javier Lipscomb)	NAL/Acct. No.200332700021
2135 NW 73rd Street)	
Miami, Florida)	FRN 0008562795

NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE

Released: April 17, 2003

By the Enforcement Bureau, Tampa Office:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (“NAL”), we find Tori Javier Lipscomb apparently liable for forfeiture in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for willful violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“Act”).¹ Specifically, we find Tori Javier Lipscomb apparently liable for the operation of an FM broadcast station on the frequency 100.5 MHz without Commission authorization.

II. BACKGROUND

2. On April 11, 2001, during an inspection of an unlicensed FM radio station in Ft. Pierce, Florida, agents of the Commission’s Tampa Field Office (“Tampa Office”) identified Tori Javier Lipscomb as the operator of the unlicensed radio station. At that time, Mr. Lipscomb deactivated the unlicensed transmitter at the agents’ request. The agents hand delivered to Mr. Lipscomb a written warning for unlicensed radio operation.

3. On November 23, 2002, agents from the Tampa Office investigated a complaint that an unlicensed radio station was transmitting on the frequency 100.5 MHz in the Fort Myers, Florida area. Commission records showed no radio station licensed on the frequency 100.5 MHz in the Fort Myers area. Using a mobile direction-finding vehicle, the agents detected a radio station broadcasting on the frequency 100.5 MHz and traced the station’s signal to a one-story apartment building located at 4274 Greenwood Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida. A two-section FM broadcast-type antenna was mounted on a metal pipe attached to a tree in the back yard. Coaxial cable connected to the antenna on one end entered apartment number 1 of the building. The agents took field strength measurements and determined that the station’s signal strength exceeded the permissible level for a non-licensed low-power radio transmitter² by 2,024 times and that, therefore, the station required a license to operate. Immediately thereafter, while the station continued to broadcast, the agents knocked on the door of apartment number 1. Mr. Tori Javier

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 301.

² Non-licensed low-power broadcasting in the 88-108 MHz band is permitted only if the field strength of the transmissions does not exceed 250 µV/m at three meters. 47 C.F.R. § 15.239.

Lipscomb answered the door and consented to an inspection of the radio station. One of the agents recognized Mr. Lipscomb as the operator of the unlicensed radio station in Ft. Pierce, Florida, on April 11, 2001. Inside the apartment, the agents found an FM broadcast transmitter and associated equipment in operation. Mr. Lipscomb stated that he leased the apartment and that he operated the radio station located there. At the agents' request, Mr. Lipscomb deactivated the transmitter.

III. DISCUSSION

4. Section 301 of the Act sets forth generally that no person shall use or operate any apparatus for the transmission of energy of communications or signals by radio within the United States except under and in accordance with the Act and with a license. On November 23, 2002, Mr. Tori Javier Lipscomb operated radio transmitting equipment on the frequency 100.5 MHz without benefit of the required Commission authorization.

5. Based on the evidence before us, we find that on November 23, 2002, Tori Javier Lipscomb willfully³ violated Section 301 of the Act by operating radio transmission apparatus without a license.

6. Pursuant to Section 1.80(b) (4) of the Rules,⁴ the base forfeiture amount for operating a radio station without a Commission authorization is \$10,000. In assessing the monetary forfeiture amount, we must also take into account the statutory factors set forth in Section 503(b)(2)(D) of the Act, which include the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation, and with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require.⁵ Considering the entire record and applying the factors listed above, this case warrants a \$10,000 forfeiture.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

7. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Act,⁶ and Sections 0.111, 0.311 and 1.80 of the Rules,⁷ Tori Javier Lipscomb is hereby NOTIFIED of this APPARENT LIABILITY FOR A FORFEITURE in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for willful violation of Section 301 the Act by operating a radio station without Commission authorization.

8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 1.80 of the Rules, within thirty days of the release date of this NAL, Tori Javier Lipscomb SHALL PAY the full amount of the proposed forfeiture or SHALL FILE a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.

³ Section 312(f)(1) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(1), which applies equally to Section 503(b) of the Act, provides that "[t]he term 'willful,' when used with reference to the commission or omission of any act, means the conscious and deliberate commission or omission of such act, irrespective of any intent to violate any provision of this Act...." See *Southern California Broadcasting Co.*, 6 FCC Rcd 4387 (1991).

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b)(4).

⁵ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(2)(D).

⁶ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b).

⁷ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.111, 0.311, 1.80.

9. Payment of the forfeiture may be made by mailing a check or similar instrument, payable to the order of the Federal Communications Commission, to the Forfeiture Collection Section, Finance Branch, Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 73482, Chicago, Illinois 60673-7482. The payment should note the NAL/Acct. No. and FRN referenced above. Requests for payment of the full amount of this NAL under an installment plan should be sent to: Chief, Revenue and Receivables Operations Group, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.⁸

10. The response, if any, must be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington DC 20554, Attn: Enforcement Bureau-Technical & Public Safety Division and MUST INCLUDE THE NAL/Acct. No. referenced above.

11. The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claim of inability to pay unless the petitioner submits: (1) federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period; (2) financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices (“GAAP”); or (3) some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the petitioner’s current financial status. Any claim of inability to pay must specifically identify the basis for the claim by reference to the financial documentation submitted.

12. Under the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Pub L. No. 107-198, 116 Stat. 729 (June 28, 2002), the FCC is engaged in a two-year tracking process regarding the size of entities involved in forfeitures. If you qualify as a small entity and if you wish to be treated as a small entity for tracking purposes, please so certify to us within thirty (30) days of this NAL, either in your response to the NAL or in a separate filing to be sent to the Technical & Public Safety Division. Your certification should indicate whether you, including your parent entity and its subsidiaries, meet one of the definitions set forth in the list provided by the FCC’s Office of Communications Business Opportunities (OCBO) set forth in Attachment A of this Notice of Apparent Liability. This information will be used for tracking purposes only. Your response or failure to respond to this question will have no effect on your rights and responsibilities pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Communications Act. If you have questions regarding any of the information contained in Attachment A, please contact OCBO at (202) 418-0990.

13. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT a copy of this NAL shall be sent by regular mail and Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested to Tori Javier Lipscomb, 2135 NW 73rd Street, Miami, Florida 33147.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ralph M. Barlow
District Director
Tampa Field Office, Enforcement Bureau

⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1914.

Attachment